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TWELVE PAGES — TWO RIVALS

VOL. VII NO. 34

Gulf war mediation Iran minister visits Syria for peace talks

BEIRUT, Dec. 31 (Agencies) — Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. Ali-Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus Thursday at the head of an official delegation with a message from the Iranian president to his Syrian counterpart and to hear Syrian plans to mediate between Iran and Iraq to end the Gulf war.

The Syrian news agency, SANA, said Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam was at Damascus international airport to welcome Velayati. Tehran radio had earlier broadcast a tape of an interview with Velayati before his departure from Tehran in which he said his trip was "a reply to all the kindness shown to Iran since the (1979 Islamic) revolution by our brothers, the Syrians."

Syria is one of the few Arab countries backing Iran in its 15-month-old war with neighboring Iraq. Velayati's trip to Damascus comes amid reports of a fresh Syrian and Kuwaiti initiative to end the war on the northern side of the Gulf. Kuwait, which has warm relations with the Baghdad government, is expected to negotiate with the Iraqis while Syria's President Hafez Assad is scheduled to hold talks with Velayati in Damascus.

The Iranian foreign minister said the war was on the agenda of discussions but he did

not mention the Syrian initiative in the airport interview, conducted immediately before his departure for the Syrian capital. He said he was going to Damascus because "Syria's policies are close to our own."

Velayati added: "As the most powerful government in the Middle East, we announce we are on Syria's side." He said the talks with Syrian officials were also designed to show Iran's support for Syria following the Israeli annexation of Syria's Golan Heights. "We have to answer Israel with arms," he said.

Since the war with Iraq started on Sept. 22, 1980, Iran has said its main objective is to bring down the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein while the Iraqi president has repeatedly announced his backing for the Iranian opposition to Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

Velayati, 36, and one of the youngest members of the Tehran cabinet told the Tehran radio reporter, "One of the things that we will talk about (in Syria) is the war and the latest Iranian victories on the fronts. Our people and our army will determine the fate of the war on the fronts, and they will overthrow the Iraqi regime."

In recent weeks, Iran has claimed it has

Continued on back page

By Polish leader

'Model' program pledged

WARSAW, Dec. 31 (AP) — Poland's martial law chief, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, is expected to unveil a program in early January that "would amount to a new model for social, political and economic life in Poland," a government official was quoted as saying in an uncensored dispatch from Poland.

But the report, which reached the West Wednesday night, said political observers in Warsaw were skeptical that any political solution put forth by Jaruzelski can win wide public support. The observers said the martial law regime faced a fundamental dilemma: how to create a climate of national reconciliation at the same time as it maintains sufficient control to prevent unrest.

The uncensored reports quoted sources in Warsaw as saying Jaruzelski has set up at least three panels headed by top Communist Party leaders to revamp the country's social, economic and political programs. One of the panels reportedly proposed scrapping the tattered Polish United Workers Party — the Communist Party — and replacing it with a new party incorporating the church and Solidarity union representatives. The Communist Party has been reported in disarray since martial law was declared Dec. 13.

But Kazimierz Barcikowski, a politburo member and party secretary, told the party newspaper *Trybuna Ludu* that "the place of the party is the same as always: among the people." He said that martial law "does not create any empty political space. No one can fulfill the mission of the party for the party."

The Soviet television news program *Vremya* reported Wednesday night that the Polish party "retains its leading role," and that the "military council is acting through mem-

bers of the party and servicemen in the army. It is not an establishment standing above the party, but serves to implement the tasks set by the party..."

Another of Jaruzelski's panels, headed by Communist Party hard-liner Stefan Olszowski, reportedly proposed decentralization of the economy within tight political limits. According to sources in Warsaw, economic reforms are likely to include autonomy for factories and other enterprises, but not the worker self-management promised by Solidarity, the source said.

The uncensored dispatch from Poland said the now-banned Solidarity labor movement was circulating a bulletin urging its members to resist what it described as "a Stalinist version of local terror which our generation has never experienced."

The bulletin, dated Dec. 28, told members to "work slowly, complain about the mess

Continued on back page

'Dead' man saved by a lucky leap

NEW DELHI, Dec. 31 (AFP) — A man believed dead leapt out of a funeral pyre to the horror of mourners Wednesday at Gangaghat in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the UNI news agency reported Thursday. Ram Astar, a rickshaw puller, had lost consciousness, according to the agency. His neighbors assumed he was Dead and took him to the cemetery for cremation. But the flames of the funeral pyre revived him and he leapt from the fire with a yell.

The official daily wage in Ghana is insufficient to buy a loaf of bread, and Ghanaians have blamed military government for the country's plight. But Rawlings was regarded as different. Known by his initials as "JJ," he was the first Ghanaian leader to achieve personal popularity since the flamboyant Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president in 1957.

Late last year, in a newspaper interview, he said the next revolution in Ghana would be a bloody one in which thousands would die.

(A report in London said the British High Commission (embassy) in Accra has asked all British residents to remain in their homes until the situation in the country clarified.) Ghana's borders with Ivory Coast, Upper Volta and Togo were closed and all air movements inside and over Ghana were suspended.

Earlier Thursday, diplomatic sources said that fighting was still going on in the Camp Burma area of Accra and heavy firing could be heard in the city. The sources said automatic weapons fire was coming from different parts of the capital.

Ghana is the victim of a long-standing economic malaise that has turned it from one of the most prosperous countries in Africa to one of the poorest. Three-figure inflation, declining exports and a virtually worthless currency are among the economic problems facing the military regime that announced it had taken power Thursday. It was the fifth military intervention in Ghanaian politics since the country won independence.

President Limann, failed since coming to power in September, 1979, to cure the country's chronic problems. Previous military governments had kept the country going by building up huge debts and printing increasingly worthless credit bank notes. The result was galloping inflation.

Despite some early success at putting Ghana's economic house in order, the Limann administration had acknowledged this year that inflation was back to three figures.

The root of the economic crisis is a declining cocoa crop, which represents 70 percent of Ghana's export earnings. While neighboring countries in Africa have increased their cocoa production, Ghana, once the world leader, has seen its output drop to about half former levels. The cocoa industry has in turn become inefficient, with few new plantings.

The lack of cash has hit the infrastructure and the road network on which the industry depends.

Investors, especially in Western Europe, the Middle East and Asia, have traditionally rushed into gold or other "solid assets" at the first sign of trouble. But gold prices and trading activity remained subdued, despite the armful headlines of recent months.

One factor that helped steady prices, though, was a sharp rise in gold demand by jewelers. Dealers estimated that they bought between 550 and 650 tons in 1981, about half

Soviets will push arms cuts

MOSCOW, Dec. 31 (AFP) — The Soviet Union is ready to make "a maximum of efforts" next year to achieve progress in disarmament, notably in the strategic weapons and Euromissiles fields, Moscow's chief negotiator at the Moscow arms talks Leonid Zamiatin said Thursday.

The three priorities for 1982 must be Euromissiles, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) negotiations, Zamiatin said in an interview with the weekly *Moscow News*.

"The evolution of East-West relations will depend on the solution of these three problems," said Zamiatin, who is international information chief of the Soviet Party Central Committee.

On the possibility of a U.S.-USSR summit, Zamiatin said that the Soviet Union had "always favored dialogue with the United States at any level."

"We are for frank and constructive talks with the United States for the search for mutually-acceptable solutions to all the problems between us," he said.

He nevertheless attacked U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Dec. 25 statement announcing economic sanctions against Poland as "the proclamation of a policy of interference in Polish affairs."

W. German banker embezzles \$55m

PARIS, Dec. 31 (AFP) — French police have arrested West German banker Hartmut Fricker, 44 — wanted for allegedly embezzling 110 million marks (about \$55 million) — by following his U.S.-based wife to a secret rendezvous.

Fricker was the head of the "Frankfurter Handelsbank," which left Germany in August, 1980, leaving behind a huge deficit.

An international arrest warrant was issued but he could not be traced.

But West German police were convinced that the missing banker in some way regularly met his wife, who lived in the United States.

Continued on back page



Jerry Rawlings : Toppled the civilian government in Ghana

Mercenaries in Seychelles face treason charges

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Dec. 31, (R) — Six white mercenaries are to be charged with treason and could face the death penalty in connection with an aborted coup here last month, according to Seychelles Attorney-General Bernard Rassoul.

The same charge will be leveled against Susan Ingles, a South African, who is alleged to have arrived in this Indian Ocean archipelago in advance of the mercenaries who tried to topple left-wing President Albert Rene on Nov. 25 and replace him by former President James Mancham.

Treason is the only crime punishable by death in the Seychelles but it had been uncertain whether the term could be applied to foreigners.

Rassoul said that foreigners were covered

by the same laws as citizens.

The six accused mercenaries are three South Africans, a Briton and two men who hold passports from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) but were residents of South Africa.

Continued on back page

Ghana army strikes; Chief Limann ousted

ABIDJAN, Dec. 31, (Agencies) — Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in Ghana Thursday for the second time in three years.

On June 4, 1979, at the head of a group of junior officers Jerry Rawlings overthrew the military government of General Fred Akuffo. The flight lieutenant ruled Ghana for three turbulent months before handing over power to the elected government of President Hilla Limann.

During this time, three former heads of state, Akuffo, Gen. Akwasi Afrifa and Ignatius Achampong, along with several senior army officers, were executed by firing



Willa Limann : Now the past-President of Ghana

Kingdom, Libya resume relations

RIYADH, Dec. 31 (SPA): Saudi Arabia and Libya have decided to restore diplomatic relations to "heal rifts in Arab relations and unify Arab action against the common enemy," an official statement issued here Tuesday.

Meanwhile a similar statement issued in Tripoli by the Libyan Foreign Ministry said Libya was resuming diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia after a break of more than a year, "in the interest of Arab unity."

Relations between the two countries were severed in October 1980.



BOWLING BEAR : Eskie, a 900-pound male polar bear at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona recently received a bowling ball from Tucson Women's Bowling Association. When Eskie throws the ball into the pool he really doesn't mind because he enjoys swimming almost as much as bowling.

Argentine drivers have outlaw instincts

Human error, ignored rules cause the high accident rate

By William Humphries

injured and another 2,100,000 reported incidents in which there were no injuries.

The cost to the nation was \$2.7 billion, mainly in hospital charges, material damage, loss of work, police and court procedures.

In Buenos Aires, the federal capital, 429 people died and 5,696 were injured in 4,990 accidents in the first 10 months of 1981, according to the municipality.

Among the committee's aims are the introduction of road safety education into the school system and the drafting of a new code to replace an obsolete 1949 law which was never fully accepted by the various provincial governments, which either rejected the old code entirely, applied only parts of it or modified it to suit themselves.

Getting a new law promulgated by the military government will be simple compared with the problems of implementing it. Last year, an attempt to enforce the wearing of seat belts fizzled out in the face of public disinterest and official indifference.

Despite increasingly heavy fines there are an estimated 400,000 cases a year of one of the more popular misdemeanors, running red lights, for which the penalty is \$100.

In Buenos Aires, more accidents are recorded at corners where there are lights than at unguarded intersections. The problem is aggravated by summer power fad-

outs which cause irregularities in the functioning of traffic signals.

Indiscriminate use of horns is routine. Lane discipline is unheard of. Cars, trucks and buses weave and cut in and out of traffic at high speed. One-way systems are ignored and to practice road courtesy is dangerous and invites the scorn, ridicule and anger of other motorists.

Among the most notorious offenders are the drivers of the thousands of small, 21-seater city buses known as Colectivos who were said by a judge recently to be a threat to the lives of other drivers, passengers and pedestrians alike.

In the first three months of 1981, 12 people, including a well-known local actress, were killed and 206 injured in accidents involving Buenos Aires Colectivos. A recent survey found that many buses which have one-man crews, were old and in bad repair. Some owners tried to save costs by employing unqualified youths as mechanics. None could afford to increase staff or install automatic ticket dispensers.

In their defense, Colectivo drivers say they work long hours for little pay and have to do too many things at once — steer, change gear, collect money, issue tickets, give change and answer queries.

Calling for swift implementation of the new highway code and modern education methods for both children and adults, the Buenos Aires Herald newspaper said it was tragic that traffic mishaps were the greatest killers of young Argentines between the ages of five and 25.

tine drivers.

So it is easy for cars, buses, trucks cyclists and pedestrians to zig-zag around the barriers and cross the lines in defiance of flashing lights and ringing alarm bells.

Last year more than 100 people were killed and 500 injured in railroad crossing accidents in the capital. Some of the vehicles involved were buses laden with passengers and cars and taxis carrying children.

One senior railway official suggested that a subconscious feeling of omnipotence experienced when behind the wheel of a powerful machine might explain why some drivers tried to beat speeding trains.

A psychologist thought aggressive driving might be an outlet for pent-up hostilities in a country with a long history of authoritarian rule of one kind or another.

Former train driver and union leader Luis Etchevarri believed there were two main reasons for such accidents: "The first is irresponsibility. The second is lack of a nationwide road safety education program."

Playing with death across the railway tracks is another favorite game of Argentine drivers. Despite some early success at putting Ghana's economic house in order, the Limann administration had acknowledged this year that inflation was back to three figures.

The root of the economic crisis is a declining cocoa crop, which represents 70 percent of Ghana's export earnings. While neighboring countries in Africa have increased their cocoa production, Ghana, once the world leader, has seen its output drop to about half former levels. The cocoa industry has in turn become inefficient, with few new plantings. The lack of cash has hit the infrastructure and the road network on which the industry depends.

Sultan bans open tickets to employees

JEDDAH, Dec. 31 (SPA) — Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan has given instructions to all ministries and government departments not to issue tickets orders to their personnel that bear no name or that can be endorsed or rerouted at any time, Al-Madinah reported Thursday.

He also banned the issue of unspecified vouchers for the whole families of the employees. The ticket privilege is for the official and his family only, the prince stated in his instructions. He made the order after it was reported to him that some people were misusing the open tickets granted to them by the government.

Officials confer with diplomats

JEDDAH, Dec. 31 (SPA) — Makkah Governor Prince Majed Wednesday conferred separately with North Yemeni Ambassador Ahmad Al-Muhani, and Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Najmul Thaqib Khan. His talks with the ambassadors dealt with Saudi Arabia's relations with their respective countries.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mansouri also received several ambassadors accredited to Kingdom Wednesday with whom he discussed the relations between their countries and the Kingdom.

Preventive security plan okayed

RABAT, Dec. 31 (SPA) — Representatives of Arab interior ministers meeting here Wednesday finalized the draft statute of a joint Arab fund to finance the first Arab preventive security plan. The draft, sponsored by the Arab Organization for Social Defense Against Crime, will be submitted to the ministers in Riyadh next February for approval.

The representatives opened their meetings here last Tuesday at the organization's invitation to work out the executive procedures for the implementation of the plan. The idea was conceived by Arab interior ministers during their meeting in Taif last year. The plan aims at protecting Arab society from deviation and crime while enhancing the manpower poten-

Salman attends ceremony; honors KSU personnel

By Scott Pendleton
Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Dec. 31 — A folklore night was held at the sports arena at King Saud University of Riyadh Thursday. The event, held at the university's campus at Dariyah, was staged by teams of dancers from all over the Kingdom performing for the public.

Celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the university, newly renamed after its founder, King Saud, began Tuesday when King Khaled opened the teaching hospital on the occasion of its silver jubilee.

The celebrations continued Wednesday night with a dinner for outstanding students. Riyadh Governor Prince Salman presided over ceremonies that honored long-term employees and excellent students of the university.

The ceremony also included an open discussion with former members of the university.

sity who had achieved positions of prominence in the government, according to Dr. Anwar Al-Jabarti, vice-chairman of the executive committee which planned the celebrations. The ceremony Wednesday night, held at Riyadh's Intercontinental Hotel, lasted four hours and was concluded with a banquet.

The ceremony also was attended by Education Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Khuwair, Commerce Minister Dr. Soliman A. Solaim, Industry and Electricity Minister Dr. Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani, National Science and Technology Center Director Dr. Reda Obeid, Riyadh Mayor Abdullah Al-Nuqim and the university teaching staff.

In a speech on the occasion, KSU Rector Dr. Mansour Al-Turki thanked Prince Salman for honoring the university with his presence and dwelt on the university's role in Saudi society. He then presented the prince

with a token gift in the name of the university. The prince thanked the audience and wished the university all success.

Speeches were also delivered by Dr. Abdul Hamid Khattab, on behalf of KSU staff; Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Fadda, the former rector; Al-Gosaibi Yamani, Obeid, Solaim, Nuqim and Prof. Abdillah Wahbi.

Friday the exhibition at Dariyah of the contributions of various departments of the university will open every day during the celebrations.

On Saturday a three-day seminar dealing with industrial productivity will open at the College of Administrative Science. Also Saturday, Hamad Al-Jaser will lecture on the history of Riyadh. Jaser is a specialist on the history of the Arabian peninsula. The lecture will take place at the administration lecture hall in Malaz. Sunday, the university football team will compete against the Nasr club of Riyadh at the Malaz stadium. In the evening,

a seminar on Saudi poetry will be held at the Administration building in Malaz.

On Monday, the university basketball team will compete against the Ohod club of Madinah at the sports dome in Deriyah. Immediately afterward in the dome the Qadisiyah Club of Alkhobar will compete in table tennis against the KSU team.

Also Monday Abdul Qadoos Al-Ansari will lecture on the Saudi literary movement in a historical perspective. Ansari is the owner of Al-Manhal, one of the Kingdom's oldest literary magazines with a history of more than 30 years of publishing. He also is a leading historian, having written a book on the history of Jeddah. The lecture will be held in the Administration building lecture hall in Malaz.

Jaber said that from Tuesday through Thursday celebrations will be held for more than 4,000 female students at King Saud University.

King increases student benefits

RIYADH, Dec. 31 (SPA) — King Khaled has ordered Crown Prince Fahd to increase the students' financial allowances and to cut down their transportation charges, it was learned here Thursday.

The measures reflects the King's concern for the students and the improvement of their conditions.

Yamani travels to Khyber Pass

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 30 (R) — The Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani visited the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Khyber Pass, about 140 miles (225km) north-west of Islamabad, Wednesday.

Sheikh Yamani also saw a traditional Pathan dance by sword-swinging soldiers at an army mess on the Pakistani side of the border.

Earlier in Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's north-west frontier province, bordering Afghanistan, the Saudi Arabian minister met the provincial military governor Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq, to discuss "matters of mutual interest" Pakistani officials said.

Sheikh Yamani arrived in Pakistan on Monday for a week's visit. He had talks with Pakistani officials on cooperation between the two countries in the energy field.

The government here announced Tuesday that Saudi Arabia will assist Pakistan by letting it buy only light crude oil, rather than a mixture including less valuable heavier grades. The announcement was made following talks between Sheikh Yamani and his Pakistani counterpart, Gen. Rao Farman Ali Khan. The Kingdom's policy to conserve light crude by boosting medium and heavy oils had left Pakistani refineries with a surplus of heavy products which are difficult to sell.

Italian minister to visit Kingdom

JEDDAH, Dec. 31 — Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo will arrive here Tuesday on a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, it was reported Thursday. He will meet King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd and confer with Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al-Faisal, according to *Okaz*.

Colombo's talks with Saudi Arabian officials will cover bilateral relations, Middle East developments, Europe's attitude and other international topics.

During Prince Saud's visit to Italy in December 1980, the two sides underlined in a joint communiqué the pressing need to find a just, durable and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also stressed that Israel must pull out its troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

Prayer Times

Friday	Makkah	Madinah	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Tabuk
Fajr (Dawn)	5:34	5:41	5:12	5:03	5:27	6:01
Dhuhr (Noon)	12:24	12:25	11:56	11:43	12:08	12:37
Asr (Afternoon)	3:29	3:25	2:56	3:40	3:04	3:30
Maghreb (Sunset)	5:51	5:46	5:17	5:00	5:24	5:49
Isha (Night)	7:21	7:16	6:47	6:30	6:54	7:19

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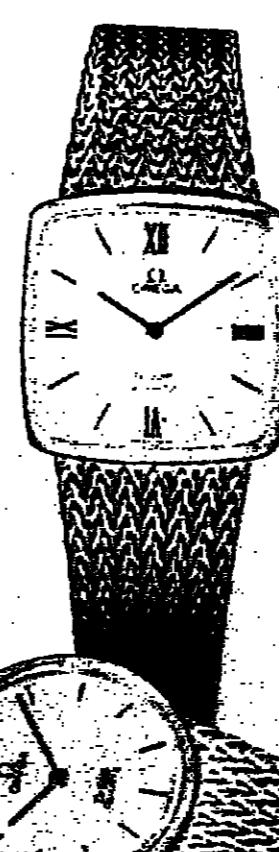
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كتابات تهم

Arab summit reconvenes next April, Kuwait says

BEIRUT, Dec. 31 (AP) — An Arab summit conference that was postponed in November will reconvene in the Moroccan city of Fez next April, the official Kuwaiti News Agency reported. It quoted unnamed Arab diplomatic sources in the Moroccan capital of Rabat as saying the summit will be preceded by a conference of Arab foreign ministers to draft the agenda.

The agency said Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kleibi and Moroccan Foreign Minister Muhammad Bosetta will undertake a tour of Arab states to finalize arrangements.

Settlers must quit Sinai by March

TEL AVIV, Dec. 31 (R) — Israeli settlers in the Sinai coastal town of Yamit have been ordered to leave their homes and businesses by the end of March, government officials said Thursday.

Letters from the prime minister's office were sent to the town's residents saying they had to be out by March 31 or they would not be eligible for evacuation compensation, the officials said.

Under the Camp David peace accords, Israel must return the last section of the Sinai peninsula to Egypt by April 25. The government is still negotiating compensation payments with about 2,000 settlers.



BOMB VICTIM: The body of the Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon Abdul Razzak Lafta is pulled from the rubble of the five-story Iraqi Embassy building in Beirut last week. The embassy was demolished by a bomb blast Dec. 15 which has claimed 41 lives. The bodies of all Iraqi diplomats, including that of the ambassador, were flown to Baghdad Wednesday, the pro-Iraqi Baath Party said in Beirut.

Unionists' trial in Turkey

Judge expels defense lawyer

ISTANBUL, Dec. 31 (Agencies) — A military judge ordered former cabinet minister Hassan F. Gunes, defending 52 leftist unionists facing the death penalty, out of the courtroom Wednesday triggering a mass walkout by other defense lawyers.

Gunes, interior minister in the government of now-imprisoned Social Democrat Bulent Ecevit, was evicted from the courtroom after he attempted to interrupt the reading of the 817-page indictment against the defendants.

The defendants, top leaders of the revolutionary Turkish trade unions' confederation (DISK), face the death penalty if convicted on charges of a conspiracy to set up a Communist regime in Turkey.

The trial, with strict security measures, opened last Thursday in an auditorium of a student housing complex outside Istanbul's ancient city walls.

Last week's two hearings were devoted mainly to settling arguments between more than 700 lawyers and the prosecutor over

defense rights. The dispute was settled when the defendants agreed to name 52 lawyers "one for each" and that if one lawyer failed to attend a hearing others will carry on defense for the whole defendants.

The controversy heightened tension in the courtroom and virtually all lawyers left the session after the judge ordered Orhan Apaydin, also the chief of the Istanbul Bar Association, out on grounds he had insulted the court.

During Wednesday's session, Gunes was also told to leave the courtroom after he shouted from his bench that he wanted to speak on defense rights.

Meanwhile, the military authorities in Kahramanmaraş, eastern Turkey, Wednesday announced the arrests of 109 alleged members and leaders of an underground extreme left movement. Among the arrested were Hamdullah Erbil, the founder of the group known as the "Turkish Popular Liberation Front and Party — Revolutionary War."



PROTEST: Abdullah Basturk (left), chairman of Turkey's DISK labor confederation and Fehmi Isiklar (right), DISK secretary-general, who face the death penalty along with 50 other unionists, seen protesting the military court's decision to limit the number of lawyers for the case on the opening of the trial last week. More than 70 lawyers quit the courtroom in protest against the decision.

Egypt, France mull military cooperation

CAIRO, Dec. 31 (AP) — French Defense Minister Charles Hernu on Thursday began talks with Defense Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala expected to conclude with a sale of jet fighters to Egypt.

The official Egyptian Middle East News Agency said the two defense ministers held their first round of talks on military cooperation before Hernu visited the tomb of President Anwar Sadat.

Hernu arrived here Wednesday for a three-day visit to discuss Egypt's arms needs and France's planned participation in the multinational peacekeeping force being formed to patrol the Israeli-Egyptian border.

The mass-circulation *Al-Akhbar* reported that Hernu would sign an agreement at the end of his visit to provide Egypt with 40-60 Mirage 2000 aircraft.

Hernu and Abu Ghazala are scheduled to hold a joint new conference Sunday to announce the results of their discussions, the news agency said. It said Hernu also visited the industrial suburb of Helwan, south of Cairo, where he toured a military aircraft factory which is to manufacture spare parts for the Mirage fighters.

Reagan to get Palestinian paper

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 — The Palestine Congress of North America, an Arab-American organization in Washington, is giving President Ronald Reagan a Palestinian newspaper as a gift. The gift is to Reagan's statement during his Dec. 17 press conference when he said he was unaware of any recent violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestine Congress hopes that the subscription to *Al-Fajr*, an English weekly published on the West Bank, will better inform the president of the United States.

"We were concerned that the State Department and the White House communication staff had not been able to inform the president on the current situation in the occupied territories," said Sami Faroun, chairman of the Palestine Congress. "We thought that a subscription to *Al-Fajr* would help out the White House."

Reagan's first issue, however, will be indefinitely delayed because the newspaper is present closed down by the Israeli authorities for its nationalistic articles.

The Palestine Congress expressed surprise at Reagan's statement and noted that mass Palestinian demonstrations against Israeli occupation have been taking place on the West Bank and in Gaza daily since Nov. 1. Israeli authorities have arrested and jailed thousands of Palestinians.

BRIEFS

CAIRO, (R) — Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won two out of three by-elections held Tuesday, according to official figures Wednesday, in a vote widely regarded as a test of President Hosni Mubarak's leadership style. Both seats won by the NDP had been held by supporters of the main opposition Socialist Labor Party (SLP) which now has only 12 seats in the 392-seat parliament.

ADEN, (R) — A joint committee Wednesday completed work on a draft constitution for a proposed merger of South and North Yemen, the official Aden news agency reported. It said the draft consisted of 136 articles but did not publish any of them. The committee had been meeting since the two countries signed the merger agreement in April 1979.

PARIS, (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson will make an official visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates from Jan. 9 to 11, a ministry spokesman said Thursday.

DAMASCUS, (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said Wednesday its commandos had blown up a police vehicle in Jerusalem and planted a bomb in an Israeli intelligence service building in the city.

NEW DELHI, (AFP) — The Pakistan Embassy here Thursday denied the reports Wednesday night that a member of its mission in the Indian capital had sought political asylum in the Afghan Embassy here.



ARMY DEFECTORS: Afghan army defectors in uniform exercise at a freedom fighters' base in Allah Jirga, eastern Afghanistan. Thousands of Afghan troops have joined the Muslim freedom fighters in the war against the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan and Soviet troops.

'Interference in our country'

Kabul hits Reagan statement

NEW DELHI, Dec. 31 (Agencies) — The Afghan government has said President Reagan's recent statement on Afghanistan was a direct interference in the country's internal affairs, Kabul radio reported. Last Sunday Reagan called for a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and promised his country's continued support to the cause of freedom for the Afghan people.

The Afghan state radio, monitored in New Delhi Wednesday, quoted an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying President Reagan's statement was "nothing else but direct interference in the internal affairs of our country and against all canons of international behavior."

"Reagan and his companions can no longer impose their systems on us. No power on earth has any right to speak on behalf of the Afghan people ... who can speak for themselves and take decisions about their destiny," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said that Soviet residents of the Afghan capital Kabul, who have been among targets in 27 attacks in the past fortnight, have begun carrying weapons and organizing

India, Bangladesh open talks Jan. 13

preceded by a four-day meeting at expert level, also in the Indian capital.

A joint statement issued at the close of a visit to New Delhi in September by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsul Huq identified outstanding issues as the disputed South Talpatty Island in the Bay of Bengal, (referred to by India as New Moore Island), maritime boundaries and land boundaries.

OAU denies force encircled in Chad town

PARIS, Dec. 31 (AP) — Nigerian Gen. Geoffrey Ejiga, commander of the Organization of African Unity peacekeeping force in Chad, was quoted Thursday as denying Libyan reports an OAU detachment had been surrounded by rebel forces in the eastern town of Ati.

Ejiga was quoted by the French news agency in a dispatch from Ndjamena as saying he was in radio contact with the Ati troops and the reports were not true.

Tripoli radio said Wednesday troops of the rebel force led by former Defense Minister Hissene Habre, advancing over the past two months from bases on the Sudan border, had encircled Ati and ordered the OAU troops to lay down their arms.

Ejiga was quoted as saying the rebels did not ring the town, where 2,000 Nigerian and Zaire troops of the OAU force are stationed. OAU officials at their headquarters in Addis Ababa said Wednesday night they had no confirmation of the Libyan claim. Ati is the major town between Ndjamena and the Sudan frontier, and about 400 kilometers east of the capital.

Sources in Yaounde in neighboring Cameroun said Thursday it was likely Habre's forces would try to go around the town en route for the capital without confronting the OAU forces. The OAU has insisted its troops remain neutral in the battle between the forces of President Goukouni Oueddei and those of Habre.

Habre's forces were ousted from the capital in December, 1980, after a nine-month battle with government forces, when Goukouni called in Libyan troops.

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi pulled these forces out unexpectedly fast in October when Goukouni asked they leave before the end of the year.

With the government still trying to form a national army out of the armed forces of the 10 political factions opposed to Habre, the latter's well-supplied forces moved steadily inward from the Sudan border. They have captured all populated centers in the eastern area.

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Read NEXT week in SAUDI BUSINESS



COVER

The hotel industry in Saudi Arabia is heading for trying times. With rooms aplenty, hoteliers also face rising costs. They discussed their problems at a meeting in Riyadh with Commerce Minister Salman Solaim. This week's cover by Alan Kenney profiles the industry's blues with reports from Javid Hassan in Riyadh and Maher Abbas in Jeddah.



Petroline's major showpiece, the East-West crude pipeline is slated to be officially opened by King Khalid early next year. Alan Kenney visited Yanbu for a comprehensive story on the arrangements for the visit and talks to officials about the pipeline's contribution to national goals.



The KAU hosted a marine meeting to suggest ways of training scientists to cope with coastal development. Suresh Shah attended for his story on their deliberations.



SABIC and Exxon signed an agreement recently to build a plant in Jubail manufacturing a new plastic that is lighter and stronger. Freeman Gregory from Houston met the plant manager for details on the venture that has put the market in an uproar.

Read Saudi Business in its new format and cover and you'll feel that you are reading a prestigious magazine published in London, Paris or New York. Don't forget you have an appointment with Saudi Business every Saturday.

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Violence, politics mark the year that was

ment) and arrested many deputies. One general joined in the abortive coup by ordering tanks out and within 24 hours order had been restored. But as the year ended there was still simmering rightist discontent in military and police circles which accuse the king of being too liberal.

Feb. 25 — In Seoul, military leader Gen. Chun Doo-hwan who came to power in August, 1980 was elected president of South Korea.

March 15 — David Dacko was narrowly elected president of the Central African Republic by 50.23 percent of the votes, setting off riots in the capital, Bangui, which caused four dead and 100 injured. He was ousted by the army some months later.

March 16 — An abortive coup in Mauritania, leading the Nouakchott government to break off diplomatic relations with neighboring Morocco. The four coup leaders, all former army officers, were executed a few days later.

March 30 — Dramatic assassination bid in Washington against President Ronald Reagan by mentally unstable John Hinckley, who believed he would appear as a hero to teen-age film star Jody Foster. Reagan was shot in the lung; a bodyguard and policeman were wounded and his press secretary James Brady shot in the head and semi-paralyzed.

April 1 — In Bangkok, a short-lived coup d'état by Gen. Sant Chipatima flopped when Thit prime minister, Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda, rallied his troops and regained control without violence.

April 11-13 Racial riots in Brixton, a

London suburb, caused over 200 injured.

April 14 — Complete success of the American manned space shuttle *Columbia* which orbited the Earth 37 times before gliding back to Earth, watched by 800 million persons on television.

May 5 — In Belfast, the death in prison of convicted Irish Republican Bobby Sands on the 66th day of his hunger strike in protest against refusal of British authorities to give political status to jailed Irish Republicans.

He was 27. Nine fellow Irish prisoners died on hunger strike in the following months, but failed to force the authorities to change their minds.

May 10 — Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand was elected president of France, breaking 23 years of Gaullist and Centrist rule. He dissolved the National Assembly and in the June 21 general elections the Socialist Party won an overall majority. The Communists took a bad drubbing, the worst since 1936, but four were named cabinet ministers.

May 13 — Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in an open car in St. Peter's Square by would-be Turkish assassin Mehmet Ali Agca who had escaped from an Ankara prison where he was serving a life term for murdering a Turkish newspaper editor. Agca was given a life sentence by a Rome court in July but there is still a mystery over his motive and whether he acted alone or was part of a wider conspiracy.

May 26 — In Rome, Premier Arnaldo Forlani resigned over the so-called "Masonic Lodge P2" scandal involving top

politicians and police and armed forces generals. P2 members were accused of organizing a secret power center, a virtual state within a state, involving corrupt business deals running into tens of millions of dollars in bribes.

May 30 — The assassination of President Zia-ur Rahman of Bangladesh during an abortive military coup. The coup leaders were shot within 24 hours by their own mutinous troops.

June 17 — The Israeli Air Force bombed Iraq's nuclear center at Tamuz outside Baghdad and the French-made reactor "Osirak" was totally destroyed.

June 22 — President Abolhassan Banisadr of Iran was ousted by religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

June 23 — A powerful explosion destroyed the Tehran headquarters of the ruling Islamic Party, killing party leader Ayatollah Beheshti as well as 10 cabinet ministers and 27 deputies.

June 29 — In Peking, Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng, the nominee of Mao Tse tung shortly before his death, was ousted in a power struggle and succeeded by Yao Bang.

June 30 — Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin was returned to power.

July 29 — The marriage of Prince Charles, heir to the throne of Britain and Lady Diana Spencer was watched by an estimated 700 million television viewers.

July 30 — An abortive coup in the West African Republic of Gambia was overcome with the help of Senegalese troops.

Aug. 5 — President Reagan fires 12,000 air traffic controllers who struck "illegally"

and hires new ones.

Aug. 7 — Announcement of Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Fahd's peace plan for the Middle East.

Aug. 8 — President Reagan decides that the United States will manufacture and stockpile the neutron bomb.

Aug. 23-24 — South Africa launches its biggest raid since 1975 against SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) forces in Angola.

Sept. 2-5 — More than 1,500 Egyptians, including members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Copt minority, arrested in crackdown ordered by President Anwar Sadat.

Oct. 6 — President Sadat was assassinated along with eight other persons while watching a military parade in Cairo. The killing was blamed on fundamentalists.

Oct. 8 — Egyptian Fundamentalists launch abortive uprising in Asyut. Toll: 53 dead, 109 wounded.

Oct. 14 — Hosny Mubarak named Egyptian President.

Oct. 10 — Mass demonstrations in Bonn and other West European capitals for peace and disarmament. The swelling West European peace movement causes alarm in Washington and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Oct. 12 — Andreas Papandreou's Socialists win Greek elections.

Oct. 18 — Stanislaw Kania, outvoted in the Polish party Politburo, resigns as party secretary. He is replaced by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Oct. 23-24 — North-South summit of

rich and poor nations in Cancun, Mexico.

Oct. 27 — Finland's veteran president Urho Kekkonen resigns for health reasons.

Nov. 18 — President Reagan puts forward his "zero option" — NATO will defer from deploying new nuclear weapons if Moscow dismantles its SS-20, SS-4, and SS-5 missile network.

Nov. 21-25 — Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev visits Bonn, talks to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Nov. 22 — Dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, living in internal exile, goes on hunger strike to back demand by his daughter-in-law, Liza Alexeyeva, to be allowed to emigrate to the United States to join her husband. Permission is granted in December.

Nov. 30 — Soviet-U.S. talks on limiting Eurostrategic missiles open in Geneva.

Dec. 13 — Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski proclaims state of siege and martial law in Poland. The independent trade union federation Solidarity is suspended and trade unionists are thrown in jail. A press blackout is imposed, except for official news, but the authorities subsequently admit the deaths of workers in clashes with security forces and strikes in the key mining and steel industries. Solidarity chief Lech Walesa is put under house arrest. Official western reaction to the crackdown — which Moscow describes as a purely internal Polish affair — remains generally cautious.

Dec. 14 — Israel annexes Golani Height, resulting in worldwide reprobation.

Dec. 27 — American songwriter Hoagy Carmichael, composer of "Stardust" and other classic popular songs, dies in California, aged 82.

Dec. 29 — President Reagan announces sanctions against the Soviet Union for the military crackdown in Poland.

First 20 pop singles of 1981

'Endless Love' rated top hit

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP) — As the year drew to an end, the Diana Ross-Lionel Richie duet on "Endless Love" emerged Wednesday as the top hit of 1981 among single pop records in the United States.

The disc, title song from a Brookielands film, enjoyed a lengthy run at the top of the U.S. pop record charts, and came up in the No. 1 position in *Cash Box* magazine's list of top singles for the past 12 months.

Bette Davis Eyes" by Kim Carnes took runner-up honors in the *Cash Box* listing, and "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield came in at third place in the 1981 sweepstakes.

Cash Box did not compile a list of the year's best in the country and western singles field, nor was a ten top pop list available for the final week of 1981.

The *Cash Box* magazine list of 1981's top 20 singles:

1. Endless Love — Diana Ross and Lionel Richie.

2. Bette Davis Eyes — Kim Carnes.

3. Jessie's Girl — Rick Springfield.

4. Keep on Loving You — R.E.O. Speedwagon.

5. Slow Hand — The Pointer Sisters.

6. Physical — Olivia Newton-John.

7. Queen of Hearts — Juice Newton.

8. Theme From "The Greatest American Hero" — Joey Scarbury.

9. Private Eyes — Daryl Hall and John Oates.

10. Celebration — Kool and the Gang.

11. Arthur's Theme (Best I that you can do) — Christopher Cross.

12. 9 to 5 — Dolly Parton.

13. Stars on 45 Medley — Stars on 45.

14. Waiting for a Girl Like You — Foreigner.

15. Rapture — Blondie.

16. Woman — John Lennon.

17. Let's Groove — Earth, Wind and Fire.

18. Elvira — Oak Ridge Boys.

19. Being With You — Smokey Robinson.

20. The Tide is High — Blondie

In Britain, Adam and the Ants, a British

new wave pop group, wowed record-buying teenagers in 1981 to become the top album and singles artists of the year in Britain, according to charts compiled by *Melody Maker* magazine.

The group had three hits in the year's top 20 singles and produced the best selling album of 1981, "Kings of the Wild Frontier."

Overall No. 1 bestselling single was "Vienna" by the young British group Ultravox with its futurist-style electronic sound.

At No. 2 for the year was "Ghost Town" by the Specials, a British group who formed their own record label to promote their Reggae sound.

Motion artists Michael Jackson and Smokey Robinson repeated past success in the British charts. Jackson's "One Day in Your Life" was No. 6 for the year and Robinson was in seventh place with "Being With You."

The top 10 singles of 1981 in England, as compiled by *Melody Maker*:

1. Vienna — Ultravox.

2. Ghost Town — Specials.

3. Tainted Love — Soft Cell.

4. This Old House — Shakin' Stevens.

5. Stand and Deliver — Adam and the Ants.

6. One Day in Your Life — Michael Jackson.

7. Being With You — Smokey Robinson.

8. Stars on 45 — Star Sound.

9. It's My Party — Dave Seward and Barbara Gaskin.

10. Antmusic — Adam and the Ants.

Book ban lifted

PARIS, Dec. 31 (AP) — A ban by the government of former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on the publication in France of a book about Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko has been lifted. The book, "L'Ascension de Mobutu, du Sergent Joseph Denire au General Sese Seko" was banned on the grounds that it was of a nature compromising Franco-Zairean relations."

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الإمارات

PARIS, Dec. 31 (AP) — Followers of both the Formula One and rallying branches of automobile sport were kept waiting till the last race of the 1981 season to know the respective winners in the two specialists.

The Formula One, feeds off the track caused almost as much excitement as the Grand Prix events themselves. The pre-season showdown between the International Automobile Federation (FISA) and the Makers Association (FOCA) was followed by disputes about car construction and even a cold war between two drivers.

Former Brazilian tennis player Nelson Piquet, 29, won the Formula One Drivers' title when he drove his Brabham to fifth place in October's final Grand Prix on the twisting circuit constructed in a car park behind Caesar's Palace at Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas result gave him a one-point victory over the Williams' racing teams' nominal No. 2 driver, Carlos Reutemann, Argentina, who finished eighth in the Grand Prix. Also Alan Jones, Williams' No. 1, refused to back him up and this cost him the title.

The Australian, perhaps thinking of the Brazilian Grand Prix in March when Reutemann went for the win instead of yielding to him, drove to victory at Caesar's Palace, taking himself to third place in the final overall standings and ensuring that Frank Williams' outfit won the manufacturers' award.

When asked how he felt about finishing one lap ahead of Reutemann, Jones replied: "Wonderful." Both men announced their retirement from the sport at the end of the season and returned, psychologically hurt, to their native lands. Reutemann, however, later renounced his decision and decided he would try again for the world title in 1982. Once again the South American will drive for the Williams team.

Bird helps Celtics fly past Jazz

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP) — When Adrian Dantley picked up Larry Bird, Boston coach Bill Fitch picked up an edge. "They put Dantley on Bird at the first and once we saw him on Bird, we ran a lot of low-post stuff," said Fitch. "Dantley's not a tall player and that gave us an advantage."

The result was that Bird got Dantley in foul trouble early, and that helped turn Wednesday night's National Basketball Association game around as the Boston Celtics defeated the Utah Jazz 121-110.

"They took 'A.D.' out with fouls, really, with Bird on him," said Utah coach Frank Layden. "He picked up three quick fouls. The Celtics have credibility and we don't and that's why they can manhandle us."

Saddled with fouls, Utah's high-powered scorer missed most of the second quarter and only contributed four points before the half as the Celtics ran up a 66-51 lead at intermission. The Celtics scored 14 straight points at one stage. "I don't know if it was the unit we had in or the fresh players," said Fitch. "We're ran the ball well at the time and got the shots."

In other NBA action, it was Philadelphia 102, Seattle 99; Phoenix 113, Portland 112; New Jersey 130, Detroit 119, San Diego 94, Atlanta 91; Milwaukee 107, Washington 103; New York 110, Cleveland 108 in overtime; Kansas City 120, Denver 116, and San Antonio 109, Houston 104.

The Celtics outscored the Jazz 35-24 in the second quarter to take their 15-point lead at halftime. Although Dantley wound up with 23 points, the Jazz could get no closer than 11 in the second half. Nate Archibald finished with 22 for the Celtics.

"We played a very good team, a team that played very well," said Layden. "The Celtics run well, post up well. It's a credit to their great coach."

76ers 102, Supersonics 99: Andrew Toney's 18-foot jumper with 20 seconds left broke a 99-99 tie and helped Philadelphia beat Seattle. The victory keeps Philadelphia a half-game in front of Boston in the Eastern Division race and snapped Seattle's nine-game home winning streak. Philadelphia has won four straight against Seattle. Toney scored 28 points for Philadelphia, while Seattle's Williams led all scorers with 31 points.

SUNS 113, TRAIL BLAZERS 112: Len "Truck" Robinson scored a game-high 30 points to lead Phoenix over Portland. The Trail Blazers had a chance to either tie or win the game with three seconds left but forward Calvin Natt missed two free throws.

Center Mychal Thompson, who had 11 clutch fourth-period points, said the Trail Blazers' final play "was supposed to go to me." "If it broke down, which it did, we were supposed to freelance and go from there," added Thompson. "(Alvan) Adams overplayed on defense and did a great job."

NETS 130, PISTONS 119: Ray Williams scored 25 points and James Bailey added 22 to lead New Jersey over Detroit. The lead changed 14 times in the first half, and the score was tied six times before the Nets took charge late in the second quarter. In the final 3:49, they outscored the Pistons 18-6, with Otis Birdsong scoring eight of his 20 points. Edgar Jones led the Pistons with 21.

CLIPPERS 94, HAWKS 91: Michael Brooks scored 21 points as San Diego broke a nine-game losing streak by beating Atlanta. Brooks' field goal with 3:12 left put the Clippers ahead for good at 86-85, and he added a critical free throw at the one-minute mark.

Joe Bryant added 18 points for the Clippers as they won only their second road game of the year. Atlanta was led by Eddie Johnson's 30 points.

BUCKS 107, BULLETS 103: Brian Winters came off the bench to score 15 of his 29 points in the final quarter to help Milwaukee beat Washington. Winters scored 16 straight points late in the third quarter and early in the fourth. After a shot by Scott May and a layup by the Bullets' Spencer Haywood, a Winters jump shot on a fastbreak gave the Bucks the lead for good at 100-98 with 3:02 left.

Sidney Moncrief had 21 points for Milwaukee and Bob Lanier 15. Johnson led Washington with 21 and Haywood had 20.



Niki Lauda ... back to the track

Piquet himself was at the focus of a dispute earlier in the season, when rivals alleged that the Brabham's suspension, which lowered to hug the ground after the start of a race, sneakily dodged the ground-clearance rules.

Piquet, who is the first South American to win the World Championship since the 1972 and 1974 successes of compatriot Emerson Fittipaldi, started the year well, winning two of the first four grand prix. Mechanical trouble forced him out of the next three, but a win at Hockenheim, followed by a spate of seconds and thirds, brought him close to overall standings-leader Reutemann.

The re-election in October of French firebrand Jean-Marie Balestre, as president of FISA could signal the end of the long-standing FISA-FOCA feud. The battle came to a head during the last closing season, when Balestre and FOCA president Bernard Ecclestone launched a campaign

The thrills and spills of motor racing

Spotlight will be on Prost, Lauda in the coming season

against each other which threatened to wreck the sport.

The Englishman's big business ideas were incompatible with Balestre's traditional approach and the men even announced separate 1981 racing calendars before a truce was established with the signing of the supposedly-conclusive agreement. At the October election Balestre confirmed his strength by heading off a challenge for his position from Britain's Basil Tyre.

Tyre was officially warned for attacks on



Alan Jones ... calls it a day

The first phase of the group ended this evening and Thursday's tie was the hardest fought encounter. Not many had expected the Russians to give this performance, particularly against a side which was placed third in the last championships. In fact the Aussies looked like coasting to a comfortable victory when they led by two goals to nil by the 18th minute.

The Russians are, however, a fighting lot and they seemed to have trained considerably, judging by the fact that they kept up the speed and tempo till the final whistle, seconds before which they were given their fifth penalty-corner award which could not be taken. Had this been taken they probably would have shared points for the bury defender Pampey had reduced the margin

Till five minutes before the final whistle they were on level terms despite being two goals in arrears but Australian substitute inside-right Browning sent a cross and Walsh went full length on the ground to get his stick to the ball and deflect it home for the victory

defender Pampey had reduced the margin

Hasselworth and Walsh did most of the Aussie probing and the pair figured prominently in the scorers list. Hasselworth got the first goal with a neat goal hoodwinking the defense and moving from the left and scoring from a narrow angle in the 14th minute. Within another four minutes came the second

four minutes before the interval when his lightning shot found the roof of the net.

The Soviet custodian Pleshakov did a fine job and he could take credit for restricting Australia's scoring, bringing off three spectacular saves. Australia may have been more pleasing in their moves but the Russians were not far behind exploiting the flanks and the trio of Zagorovenev, Mishurin and Nichepurenko gave ample bother to the defense.

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FISA and refusal to accept its discipline and as for his actions in support of the Lotus car, the source of yet another dispute in the sport during the year.

The double-championship was banned in April after a six-nation panel ruled that the external body broke the rules by moving into a lower position to high speed. If the 1981 season was more successful than expected in the wake of all the wrangling, 1982 promises to be more enthralling still.

Turbocharged cars won five Grand Prix



Carlos Reutemann ... falls by inches



Nelson Piquet ... the new champ.

this year and could sweep the board in times to come. Renault's turbo brought the team to rare prominence in the latter part of the season and many see a future world champion in their talented young driver Alain Prost. Competition could be extremely fierce when other teams finalize preparation of turbo cars to counter the Renault and Ferrari speedsters.

Another feature of next season's Formula One scene will be the return of Australia's two-times world champion Niki Lauda. Lauda, who will be 32 in February, was terribly scarred in a crash at Nuerburg in 1976 and retired three years later. He has joined Northern Irelands John Watson in the Marlboro McLaren stable.

However, Formula One still has at least one cloud on the horizon — uncertainty over the March Argentinian Grand Prix — because of the country's economic and social situation.

Disappointment for Lotus boss Colin

champion and his outfit's problems in Formula One this year was offset in the rallying sector by the sports car company's role in the Talbot-Lotus victory in the Manufacturers' Championship. That title, like the Rally Drivers' Championship, was not settled until the final Rally — the challenging British RAC event, for which an estimated 300,000 people turned out to see the start at Chester.

The 1,800-mile journey, taking in some of the wildest country in the north of England, south of Scotland and Wales, was a triumph for two flying Finns — Hannu Mikkola and Ari Vatanen. Mikkola, undeterred by a first-day accident in his four-wheel drive Audi Quattro, completed 15-trick of wins in the event by producing the fastest times in no less than 25 of the 65 special stages. Vatanen took his Ford Escort to second place — enough to wrest the annual Drivers' title from his major rival Frenchman Guy Frequelin, leader of the standings before the RAC Rally.

Despite the dominance of the Talbot Mark, the Audi Quattros were the motoring revelation of the Rallying season. As well as supplying Mikkola, Audi provided the car in which Michele Mouton of France became the first woman to win a World Champion ship Rally. Turbos made their presence felt in Rallying as they did in Formula One. Frenchman Jean Ragnotti, a former lorry driver and stuntman, drove his works GMW 5 turbo to victory in the Monte Carlo Rally in January and proved its worth again by taking it to fifth place in the RAC Championship in conclusion.

A new event on the motor sport calendar in 1982 will be the first World Endurance Championship, which could well offer the chance of an extra title to Jackie Ickx of Belgium, winner for the fifth time this year of the Le Mans 24-hour race.

Ballesteros takes lead at Sun City

SUN CITY, Bophuthatswana, Dec. 31 (AP) — Seve Ballesteros of Spain, the last man in the field, dropped a ten-foot (3-meter) birdie putt on the 18th hole Thursday to break a four-way tie and establish sole control of the first-round lead in the richest tournament in the history of golf.

The young Spaniard finished with a three-under-par 69 in sweltering heat in the opening round of the Sun City one-million-dollar golf challenge, the game's first seven-figure event, which offers \$500 thousand to the winner.

With 54 holes to go, Ballesteros holds a one-stroke lead over host Gary Player of South Africa, and Americans Lee Trevino and Jack Nicklaus, tied with 70s.

American Johnny Miller Matched par 72 over the 7,693-yard "Gary" Player Country Club course at this spectacular resort 100 miles (160 km) northwest of Johannesburg.

"I guess I've found my choking point," Miller said in reference to the enormous prize money being offered here. "I missed five putts inside of six feet. I just girded I didn't embarrass myself."

Ballesteros, one of the world's longest hitters, birdied three of the par-five holes before his dramatic closing birdie gave him the lead. Nicklaus, who held the lead until he bogied the 18th, spiced his effort with an eagle three on the 10th hole.

English pacemen should make hay at Eden Gardens

CALCUTTA, Dec. 31 (AP) — England's chances of levelling the Test series against India will never be better than in the fourth Test which starts before an expected 80,000 crowd at the Eden Gardens here Friday.

The Eden wicket has always proved to be a happy hunting ground for touring sides and of the five Test matches played here three have ended in a result. The seamers will find the heavy atmosphere to

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U.S. WOUNDS

Festerling wounds which had already existed between the United States and Israel were reopened and some new ones created when Israel announced its intentions to annex the Golan Heights.

Although past administrations on both sides have attempted to cover these wounds, this latest aggression by Israel raises anew the recurring questions asked about why the United States has, since 1977, supported Israel at all and why United States taxpayers have been indebted to support Israel both with money and military aid.

President Reagan's action of suspending strategic agreements between the United States and Israel was the first positive act by any U.S. administration in many years which might lead to the salvation of U.S. citizen from the immense financial burden imposed by support for Israel. Now it remains to be seen whether or not Reagan can stick to his guns and perhaps even take the next logical step of cutting foreign aid to Israel as well or at least examining the need for such deficit spending with no visible gain to the American taxpayer.

The Arab world has never agreed to the provisions of the Camp David accords, the Israeli attempt to annex the Golan Heights proves unequivocally that the government of Menachem Begin had been hiding under the cover of these accords, using them only as long as their provisions were beneficial to Israel and ignoring them when they were not. The annexation of the Golan Heights signifies the official death, as far as Israel is concerned, of both the Camp David accords and of the United Nations Resolution 242.

The Golan Heights Law, passed by the Knesset in mid-December, in effect, extends to that area the law, jurisdiction and administration of Israel in the same way that Israel took over and annexed occupied Jerusalem in 1967.

At the same time, the annexation of the Golan Heights proves without a doubt, even to the previously skeptical U.S. officials, that Israel now has no intention and has never had any intention to negotiate with anyone when it comes to returning territory. It makes no difference to Begin whether their action disregards any resolutions made by the United Nations or any other national or international body.

This became very obvious when Syria refused to negotiate with Israel on sovereignty over the Golan Heights. As usual, Israel immediately took matters into its own hands and proceeded with tactics aimed at annexing that territory.

Israel and Begin have only one goal in mind, to use any and all existing agreements and regulations to their benefit and as soon as that utility fails the alternative is to use force to grab more territory without paying any attention to the rights of others.

Saudi Arabian press review

King Khalid's patronage of King Saud University silver jubilee celebrations, the challenges faced by the Arab nation and the latest Israeli warplanes' violation of Iraqi airspace Wednesday night figured for editorial comments in Thursday's newspapers.

Al-Bilad commented the personal attention and care given by King Khalid to education in the Kingdom and his patronage of King Saud University reflected "the Kingdom leadership's devoted loyalty and love for the people of Saudi Arabia and their total commitment to provide all available resources and facilities for the spread of education all over the country."

Dealing with the role of modern universities, Al-Jazirah said the universities "should be close to the community, tackle its problems and work toward finding the proper solutions for them."

Olaya commented on the necessity of forging Arab solidarity in the face of growing Israeli challenges to the Arab nation and the international community. The paper said differences among the Arab states are serving only the enemies of the nation. The paper (SPA)

called for the resumption of the postponed Arab summit "so as to formulate a joint Arab action to counter all the prevailing challenges to the Arab nation."

Commenting on the same subject Al-Riyadah called for ironing out differences and removing the seeds of split among the Arab states.

Condemning the violation of Iraqi airspace by the Israeli enemy planes Wednesday night, the paper said it provided a fresh warning to a new Israeli design similar to its wanton attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility outside Baghdad.

The paper called for forging Arab solidarity and unity as the sole weapon to put a permanent end to Israeli aggression on Arab lands.

Al-Nadwa described the Israeli violation of Iraq's airspace "as an act that may lead to an even more dangerous assault in the future by Israel on Arab lands if the Arabs fail to unify their ranks and solidify their unity."

The paper said the latest Israeli violation also suggested an open U.S. collaboration with the Zionist enemy against the Arab nation. (SPA)

Bandaranaike fights for survival

By Lucien Rajakaruna

COLOMBO —

Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayawardene has split the opposition Freedom Party by handing over its headquarters to a dissident faction opposed to the party leader, former Premier Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. The Freedom Party, formed in 1951 by her husband Solomon, who was assassinated, is the country's largest opposition group and the main threat to the ruling United National Party, which faces an election in 1983.

With its middle-of-the-road policies, the Freedom Party has been elected to government three times since independence in 1948. At the last general election it won 40 percent of the national vote.

Last year President Jayawardene's government deprived Mrs. Bandaranaike of civic rights, expelled her from parliament and passed laws preventing her participation in any election campaign for seven years. The government move followed a report by a special presidential commission finding her guilty of "abuse of power" when she headed a left-wing coalition from 1971 to 1977.

He thus removed her as a challenge in the presidential poll due in 1984, but strengthened her position as opposition leader. Her "martyrdom" drew large crowds to public rallies as the government grew increasingly unpopular because of inflation and widespread corruption.

However, disenfranchisement of Mrs. Bandaranaike led to inner conflict in the Freedom Party, mainly over the legality of having her as party leader at the next general election and at local government polls. A rival faction led by deputy leader Maithripala Senanayake began to challenge Mrs. Bandaranaike, especially over her control of key party posts.

Senanayake drew support from many Freedom Party leaders, including Anura Bandaranaike, Mrs. Bandaranaike's son. As the feuding worsened, Mrs. Bandaranaike appointed her own electoral organizers, summoned a party session and suspended the rival faction.

The rift resulted in clashes over ownership of the party headquarters, and three months ago the government took over the premises under emergency powers.

Two clear factions emerged, each claiming to be the Freedom Party: the SLFP(S) led by Mrs. Bandaranaike and SLFP(M) led by Senanayake. Two weeks ago, as peace talks began, the government made the calculated move of recognizing the smaller Senanayake faction as the official Freedom Party and handed over the headquarters to its officials. When Mrs. Bandaranaike sought a court injunction to stop the move, police ignored a magistrate's order to seal the building and restore the *status quo*.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, with no civic rights and no party headquarters, now faces the possibility of losing the party symbol, a hand, which has significance in popular Buddhist belief.

Increasingly she casts herself in the role of Indira Gandhi. At a meeting soon after the headquarters went to her rivals, she said her faction could win the next election without symbol or office, explaining how Mrs. Gandhi had won in India without the Congress cow and calf symbol or Congress party color.

Mitterrand's Socialist changes hit middle classes

(EDITOR'S NOTE: France's middle classes have always protected their position with great self-confidence and vigor. Now, says the writer, they fear they are going the way of their British and Italian counterparts.)

By Robin Smyth

crushed out of existence between the workers and what Kipling would have called the powers.

Raymond Barre, the former prime minister, used to say with a trace of sharpness that only in France is this large category of employees aware of having a common purpose. There are about four million *cadres*, and the weekly magazines argue for their custom with covers on which neatly dressed young men, their faces set in expressions of frustrated competence, climb ladders, battle against storms or hold their heads above rising flood waters.

A few years ago, when the flood seemed hardly more than a puddle, a left-wing editor remarked to me: "The great step toward equality made in Britain is to have cut the *cadres* down to size."

The *cadres* naturally see it rather differently. For them, Britain's decline is the great contemporary cautionary tale about what happens to a middle-class which fails to stand up for itself, and the fate that overtakes a country that allows its middle-class to go under.

In the comparative salary charts which French papers publish from time to time to show the *cadres* how they are doing, the British and the Italians are at the bottom of the list, trailing far behind the French at all levels. But over the past six years, before socialism was considered a serious possibility, the *cadres* have realized that while the purchasing power of the workers was advancing at 2.5 percent ahead of the cost of living, they were only just keeping abreast of it.

Unemployment, spreading rapidly among the workers, began to strike at the *cadres*, especially those over 50. Jobs advertised for *fonctionnaires* were swamped with hundreds of applicants. The bitterness between the private sector and the Giscard regime reached a point where the CGC threatened to put up its own presidential candidate.

President Mitterrand won in May not because the Left supported him — that had been so when he narrowly lost to Giscard in 1974 — but because a disillusioned section of the middle-classes moved over into the Socialist camp. However, with Mitterrand installed *le malaise des cadres* — the middle-class executives — became intense. Socialist patronage is concentrated on the lower earners, which compresses an already shrinking wage hierarchy.

Socialist plans for industrial democracy, starting with the newly nationalized industries and banks, threaten to deprive the *cadres* of their role as planners and middlemen in the chain of command. The contradictions and uncertainties of present economic policy arouse fears of declining economic potential and collapsing companies, with employers defiantly waging a "cold civil war" against the government and refusing to create jobs until long-term prospects show that they are justified.

In an office on the Paris boulevards, Paul Marchelli, a 48-year-old metallurgist, who has lately moved into effective control of the CGC, the *cadres*' union, is preparing a sharper offensive to save his members from the fate which he feels has overtaken their counterparts in Britain and Sweden. "We are on the brink of letting go — of losing our incentive," he says. "What must never be forgotten is that when our industries performed brilliantly in the glorious years of growth in the sixties, it was thanks to the dynamism and energy of the *cadres*."

"Now the economic situation is bad everywhere. The *cadres* are apprehensive. They are being hit by unemployment. And in their work they feel increasing-

ingly singled out and challenged by the workers' unions who see them as representatives of the management. They are in an extremely uncomfortable position and are beginning to wonder in what sauce their goose is going to be cooked."

"With a Socialist government in power an anarchic situation could build up in our factories which would lead to the destruction of the existing hierarchies — and perhaps even of the firms themselves."

One of the aspects of French life which foreigners find most puzzling is the divided attitude to wealth. Those who make money have an uneasiness, a feeling that they are treated as inferior citizens, which goes back well beyond socialism to the Catholic aversion to money lenders. Whatever ideology is on top, it is always the *fonctionnaire* who has the prestige. The present National Assembly is dominated by Socialist schoolteachers who apply themselves with considerable fervor to the government's nationalization of banks and 35 large companies.

Yet when it comes to possessions, the picture changes radically. Getting is suspect, but having is sacred. Within half a century a predominantly peasant society has become one of the world's leading industrial nations. But although the French may have lost their roots in the land, they retain keen peasant instinct for hoarding, augmenting and passing on a *patrimoine* — a heritage. Hence the 5,000 tons of gold hidden away in family coffers and the two million holiday cottages and second homes.

And when it comes to paying taxes it is the state which is considered to be intrusive and acquisitive. As Jacques Delors, the finance minister, reminded sadly on TV the other day, "Evading the *fisc* is held by a section of the population to be one of the fine arts."

Franc smugglers who try to get their money out of the country, safe from the Socialist taxmen, may be a small minority. But French customs men are fighting a constant battle of wits to stop this leaf of middle-class wealth into numbered Swiss bank accounts. There is now, it seems, a secret agency of franc bootleggers. They drive or fly your nest-egg to Switzerland disguised as tourist families. You pay them a percentage rate on the loot they carry and are guaranteed full reimbursement if they get caught.

Private franc runners are sometimes so elated to have their money through the frontier they forget that the bank statements must be concealed just as carefully on the return journey. French customs men recently caught a panic-stricken bank clerk trying to swallow the Swiss account numbers of some of the worthies of his town in the Rhone valley for whom he had acted as courier.

The most spectacular case to come to light so far is the airlift to Canada of the Latecoere fortune — almost \$6,000,000 in gold coins. The government is bringing a case against Jean-Pierre Latecoere, the son of an aircraft designer, and the officials of the Paribas banking group, now in the course of nationalization, who are alleged to have ferried the gold out for him.

Such excesses are beyond the scope of *cadres*, even if they wanted to indulge in them. Their tax is deducted at source and no evasion is possible. "If you had a list of the owners of the big new villas along the coast near here you'd never be at a loss for a doctor or a chemist," said a Marseilles *cadre* environmentally.

"What worries us is that it is always the same people who are asked to pay," says Marchelli.

"French governments have a tiresome tendency to take money where they see it — and not where it really exists. We are always the ones who are asked to put our hands in our pockets, and we have had enough."

France's Socialist government realized it had gone too far this autumn when it introduced — and then hastily overhauled — a "solidarity" tax to plug a hole in unemployment pay. The tax fell on almost any middle-class executive whose wife or husband was also working. But *fonctionnaires* were absolved because unemployment was not their problem.

The Socialists are well aware that their annual wealth tax on outside fortunes is an inefficient way of ironing out inequalities. A more productive method of cutting into the wealth of the bourgeoisie would be to increase death duties from their present comparatively low level. But when Giscard and Barre considered doing this the outcry was so overwhelming that the Socialists struck it out of their plan.

A belief in inheritance is ingrained in France; it extends, a recent poll showed, even to members of a Communist Party and citizens who have nothing to inherit or to bequeath. Under the Code Napoleon the children of a marriage become part owners of the family property as soon as one parent dies. The widow or widower has to consult the children before selling the house. The original idea was to break up large class of possessors.

Families can still quarrel over wills with the intensity of characters in a Balzac novel. Sometimes the wounds are deep, but often a cheerful cynicism prevails. After proposing at a late age to a young actress, the much-married actor-playwright Sacha Guitry told his friends: "It is she who will close my eyes and open my desk."

Finance Minister Delors says that one of the strengths of France is that families hold together more than they do elsewhere. This is certainly the impression of German observers, who are astonished by the placidity of French youth between well-advertised bouts of letting off steam such as May 1968. In West Germany the cleavage between the generations of the middle-class is deep and the worries are apocalyptic. Are our children taking to drugs? Or terrorism? Are we all going to be wiped out by the bomb?

Where in France — the Germans ask — are the squatters and the searchers after alternative life styles? Why are the French peace marches so much the smallest in Europe?

On the whole French youth has decided that it will probably settle with certain alterations for the established way of life. The parents of the middle-class do not have the insecurity of their British counterparts. The main state school — the *lycée* is still the best preparation for a career. Private education leaves the impression — not always justified — that the pupil has needed special tuition. The race starts when it comes to choosing one of the difficult technical *bac* subjects which employers go for. The competition is intense for the *grandes écoles* which open a vista of success and security.

But now unemployment and uncertainty about the final intentions of Mitterrand are shaking the time-honored composure of the well-to-do. Although the talk of civil war is overblown, it looks as if France is set for a long gladiatorial contest between the centralizers and the dogged, patient possessors with their fear of straight lines and abstract principles. (ONS)

Women in Islam

by Adil Salahi

Over the last couple of weeks we have been trying to provide a framework for the discussion of the position of women in Islam. We attempted to show that the differences that exist between men and women serve a definite purpose. They did not come about as the result of a blind coincidence. Hence, they necessitate that men and women play different but complementary roles. We also established that the existence of such differences means that one of the two sexes is bound to be superior to the other. Since all societies, ancient and modern, recognize man as the superior they cannot all be wrong.

That Islam also makes man superior does not mean that women suffer any degree of injustice under Islam. Indeed, the reverse is true. For just as Islam recognises man's superiority, it does not approve the subjugation of women. It provides a social and family system which assigns to each of the two sexes its proper human position and which enables them both to make their proper contributions to the advancement of mankind.

Today we intend to look very briefly at the main principles Islam lays down to outline the woman's position in its overall concept of human life.

First, Islam considers that together men and women constitute the human race. Hence they share equally in its main qualities. There is no denial of the fact that women share equally with men the responsibility of the preservation of humanity.

The Qur'an says: *Mankind, have fear of your Lord who created you from a single living entity, and out of it He created its mate, and out of the two He spread abroad a multitude of men and women.* (4:1) The Prophet says: "Women are the sisters of men."

Second, unlike other religions, Islam does not lay the blame in man's fall from heaven on women alone. Every time

Adam's story is referred to in the Qur'an the sin which led to the fall is stated to have been committed by both Adam and Eve. In fact Adam is singled out for blame on one occasion: *And thus did Adam disobey his Lord, and thus did he fall into grievous error.* (20; 121) What is more is that the concept of original sin is alien to Islam. No one is held to blame for what previous generations committed or omitted.

Third, both men and women are equally called upon to believe in Allah and carry out His commandments. Reward and punishment for the type of response they offer are the same for both men and women. In the Qur'an we read: *As for anyone — be it man or woman — who does righteous deeds, and is a believer with him shall We most certainly cause to live a good life; and most certainly shall we grant unto such as these their reward in accordance with their best deeds.* (16; 97)

Fourth, Islam denounced the fact that many people, in perhaps all societies, feel disappointed when their expected child turns out to be a girl. It encourages all people to be kind to their women folk: daughters, sisters, wives and mothers. There are numerous Qur'anic verses and pronouncements of the Prophets to this effect. On his death bed the Prophet kept repeating his command to all Muslims to attend to their prayers and to be kind to women.

Fifth, Islam makes education of women compulsory in the same degree as men. It also makes women share in the inheritance of their relatives. No one can disqualify any of his heirs for any reason, be it man or woman.

Sixth, Islam has an elaborate system of marriage and divorce which guarantees the fulfilment of both man and woman and safeguards the rights of each as best serves their own interest and the interests of the society at large.

Finally, Islam assigns the patronage

Islam in perspective

What the Qur'an teaches

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful All praise is due to Allah, who has created the heavens and the earth, and brought into being deep darkness as well as light; and yet, those who are bent on denying the truth regard other powers as their Lord's equals. He it is who has created you out of clay, and then has decreed a term for you — a term known only to him. And yet you doubt — although He is God in the heavens and on earth, knowing all that you keep secret as well as all that you do openly, and knowing what you deserve. (Cattle 6; 1-3)

over women to their immediate relatives and makes those relatives answerable for taking good care of their women. It, however, gives women equal rights to own any type of property and dispose of it by any contractual dealings without any restrictions whatsoever, apart from

those which apply to all Islamic dealings. After this very brief outline, one wonders why Islam is constantly accused of being unfair to women. In answer we say the charge is totally unfounded as we shall see over the next few weeks, Allah willing.

Arab News welcomes questions about Islam, its principles and practices. Answer by our religious editor will be published in this section every Friday. Please address your letters to: the Religious Editor, P.O. Box 4556, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Life of the Prophet - 39 A very real journey

be to my Lord! I am only a human messenger. (17; 93) When he actually rose to heaven he did not portray the fact as a reply for their challenge.

Hence, we need to understand the night journey in its proper light: It was merely an act of Allah to reassure His messenger at a time when such a reassurance was needed for the proper conveyance of his message.

The majority of Islamic scholars are of the opinion that the night journey was not purely "spiritual". They believe, as does the present author, that the Prophet did physically, in body and spirit, go on this journey. Some people may find this hard to believe because it involves preternatural powers. Our answer is that whatever powers such a journey required, it was easy for Allah to provide.

Let us look back only one hundred years ago and imagine what would have been the reaction of people if someone had told them that anyone would be able to travel the distance between Bahrain and London in little over four hours, in luxurious comfort. Now let us reflect what sort of advancement we will be able to make over the next century in traveling speeds if we maintain the rate of progress we achieved in this field in the present century. Would supersonic traveling have seemed natural?

Indeed, the term "natural" is certainly relative. What is natural to us was preternatural to our ancestors and may become, in our grand children's view, primitive. "Natural", in essence, signifies little more than "familiar". We need only to look, with open eyes and minds, in the world about us to find that there are many a miraculous facts which we readily accept as "natural" for no reason other than their familiarity. Every childbirth is a miracle but we simply overlook it because it occurs in front of us every moment. We only need to reflect over it a little to understand its miraculous nature.

In tackling such events as the night journey we only need to remember that they occur because Allah willed that they should occur. To him there is no such a thing as "natural" or preternatural". For He has created all the laws of nature, whether they are familiar to us or not. To Him the operation of all laws is equally easy. What we do not understand of His actions we simply accept because we have already accepted that His power is limitless.

(To be continued)

1981: Leaders had a perilous year; three assassination attempts made

By Scott Kraft

NEW YORK (AP) — March 30, May 13. October 6. Washington, Rome, Cairo. Gunfire rang out. Three world leaders fell wounded: one mortally.

There had always been threats. But 1981 was a year bullets struck flesh. Reagan, John Paul II, Sadat.

Not since 1968 had those in the public eye been made so aware of the perilous life they lead. Waving to crowds, speaking to large groups, they are always a bullseye target.

Other news also captivated the world in 1981. U.S. embassy hostages were freed in Iran on Jan. 20 — the day of Reagan's inauguration — but turmoil inside the Islamic republic continued. Bombs killed top Iranian officials, and alleged subversives were executed by the hundreds.

In Poland, there were food shortages, negotiations with the Solidarity independent labor movement and government shakeups. Then suddenly, on a cold December weekend, there was martial law.

Thousands of union leaders and dissidents were arrested, communication was cut off and a curfew imposed. Western governments warned the Soviet Union against armed intervention.

The NATO alliance stood firm on its plans to deploy new medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe, but Washington also opened talks with Moscow that could reduce missile deployments.

The Soviet Union held a once-in-five-years Communist Party congress, where President Leonid I. Brezhnev repeated Soviet

assurances that Moscow wants peace and disarmament. Brezhnev made similar statements during a visit to West Germany, but the visit was tarnished in advance by the beaching of a Soviet submarine on the Swedish coast.

Swedish officials feared it was carrying nuclear weapons.

Another news event was brighter — the July marriage of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, and Lady Diana Spencer. In November, Buckingham Palace announced a royal birth is expected in the spring.

The U.S. space shuttle *Columbia*, the first spaceship intended for round trips into space, made two test flights. Each ended with perfect three-point landings in the California desert, although the second was cut short by technical problems.

Another U.S. spacecraft, the unmanned *Voyager II*, zoomed by Saturn, sending back the best photographs ever taken of the solar system's sixth planet.

Pablo Picasso's anti-Fascist masterpiece, *Guernica*, went on display in Spain after 42 years in New York. Picasso had said the painting must not be returned to his homeland until democracy was restored. Spain's right-wing dictatorship was ended by Francisco Franco's death in 1975.

In the United States, Ronald Reagan used his landslide victory — and a more conservative Congress — to implement his economic plans.

They came to be called Supply-Side Economics, or Reagonomics, a marriage of spending cuts and tax cuts that would revive business and hence the economy, drag down

inflation and interest rates and eventually unemployment.

But on Wall Street, prices in both the stock and bond markets declined. U.S. unemployment rose to 8.4 percent, a six-year high, and housing construction slowed to a standstill. However, inflation slowed and interest rates began to drop late in the year.

Mergers and talk of mergers pulsed in the U.S. business world. Dupont acquired Conoco Inc., for \$8 billion, the largest corporate takeover in U.S. history.

While conservatism reigned in America, left-leaning leaders were making strides elsewhere. Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, became president of France. Andreas Papandreou of the Hellenic Socialist movement became premier in Greece.

But the world scene in 1981 was punctuated by the staccato reports of assassination attempts — and a few that succeeded.

On March 30, outside the Washington Hilton, Ronald Reagan, three months in office as America's oldest president, was struck by a spray of bullets fired by one man. His press secretary, a Secret Service agent and a policeman also were hit.

Reagan, 70, returned to the White House 12 days later, and pronounced himself fully recovered on June 16. John W. Hinckley, 26, who had an obsession for actress Jodie Foster, awaits trial in the attack.

May 13. St. Peter's Square, Vatican City. Pope John Paul II, waving to a crowd of about 10,000 from a jeep, was shot in the abdomen, arm and hand. He underwent 5½ hours of surgery, during which parts of his intestines were removed. He left the hospital June 3, but developed a viral infection. In August, after a second operation on his intestine, he was pronounced recovered.

A Turkish terrorist and convicted murderer, Mehmet Ali Agca, was arrested shortly after the pontiff was shot, convicted by an Italian court and sentenced to life in prison.

Oct. 6. Nasse City, Egypt. During a parade commemorating president Anwar Sadat's military victory over Israel in the October War of 1973, and as jet fighters flew overhead, four uniformed men leaped from a truck in the parade and walked toward the reviewing stand, firing rifles and throwing a grenade.

President Sadat never had a chance. His successor, Hosni Mubarak, was slightly injured.

In Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman, a liberation war hero who had moved the impoverished nation of 90 million toward democracy in recent years, was assassinated in a coup attempt that was quashed within 48 hours.

In London, a man broke through a crowd and fired a pistol at Queen Elizabeth II from a few feet away, and her horse shied. She quickly controlled the horse and finished the parade. That the gun had only blanks soothed immediate concerns. But could anyone with a gun get that close?

The State Department said it had reliable information that hit squads trained by Libyan Dictator Muammar Qaddafi planned to kill top U.S. officials. Qaddafi called Reagan "silly" for thinking such a thing. Reagan called Qaddafi "a liar" and urged Americans to leave Libya.

Tensions between the United States and Libya exploded militarily in August. Navy jets shot down two Libyan aircraft after one of the Libyan planes fired a missile. Libya claimed the battle occurred over its territorial waters, but the United States said it was international territory.



FEEDING TIME: A member of the Mossi tribe dangles a chicken over the jaws of a crocodile living in a pond near Sabou, Upper Volta. The town is located 60 miles southwest of Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta.

Oilmen in Thai offshore fields coax natural gas from the Gulf of Siam

By Denis D. Gray

GULF OF SIAM, Thailand (AP) — Perched on a platform 225 km. (140 miles)

into the open sea: Veteran oil man Les Boyer takes in a tumultuous, grey-dawn scene:

Howling winds, seasick workers and waves that threaten pound heaving barges into the domain of soaring well platforms.

In short, it's a very lousy day for coaxing natural gas from beneath the Gulf of Siam.

Boyer, production superintendent on Thailand's first offshore gas field, shows few signs of fatigue after 24 sleepless hours tackling a troublesome well. Some detective work and intricate maneuvering got it back on stream before dawn.

Now, he says, "it's kicking pretty good." Hu beams like a proud father talking about his mischief-prone child.

Boyer is an American oil man from the soles of his cowboy boots to the tips of his cigars. Other expatriate workers here come from countries including Australia, Germany, Canada and New Zealand.

Boyer's company, California-based Union Oil, began operations in Thailand in 1962. But the real action — spurred by the country's crippling energy import bills — has come during the past three years.

Union Oil now is Thailand's only producer of offshore natural gas. Gas will be taking care of at least 20 percent of Thai energy needs.

Union Oil's 300 sq. km. (115 sq. mile) "Erawan field" has platforms and a mini-armada of vessels and helicopters. The gas flows onshore through a 425 km. underwater pipeline — the longest of its kind in the world — for sale to the Thai government.

The gas came on stream Sept. 12, and Union now is discovering enough reserves in five other Gulf of Siam fields to plan on being in Thailand for at least the next two decades.

Veteran oil men rank work in Thailand far above North Sea oil fields, with their brutal weather, and Mideast areas.

On the job, the expats have high praise for the growing number of Thai workers being integrated into the operation. Many of the foreigners are old Asian hands, some with Vietnam War experience, and have Asian wives.

A recent report by the International Labor Organization says offshore rig accidents claim 250 to 500 lives each year — an accident rate 10 times greater than in coal mining, popularly regarded as one of the most dangerous of civilian occupations.

But there are compensations. The average expat in this field gets about \$3,500 a month in salary plus generous housing and cost-of-living pay. The current schedule calls for 12 days of work followed by 12 of shore rest. The time off lets some hold second jobs.

Boyer ends his day with a typical meal including steak air freighted from New Zealand, three Thai dishes and a choice of six pies.

The next morning, he takes new radio reports from the platforms.

offices, a rooftop helicopter pad and accommodations in ship's cabin-like rooms for 120 men.

Recreation for the field's 450 workers in their 12 off-duty hours includes movies, ping pong, fishing and watching friendly whale sharks.

But some days, the workers' lives are a struggle.

A 5,500-ton tender barge has to cut its ropes from a well platform because of the heavy seas and then misses ramming the central platform when its anchors begin to drag.

A returning night crew cannot disembark because of the waves and must spend 12 hours of seasickness on a small boat.

Forty Vietnamese boat people — some of them more than 2,000 refugees who have reached the field over the past three years — must be cared for until United Nations offices take them ashore.

And there is the daily fight to bring the field to full production by overcoming two obstacles — the abnormally great heat of the gas, caused by natural conditions here, and its high carbon dioxide content.

Boyer ends his day with a typical meal including steak air freighted from New Zealand, three Thai dishes and a choice of six pies.

The next morning, he takes new radio reports from the platforms.



ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: The scene outside the Washington Hilton after President Reagan was shot.

Embassy activities keep women occupied

By Kathy Lund

JEDDAH — Expatriate women accompanying their husbands to Saudi Arabia often worry about what to do with their time and how to keep their young children occupied — often participating in activities sponsored by their embassy is the ideal answer, enabling them to meet other women in the community and at the same time enabling their children to be occupied with other children of the same age.

At the Australian embassy, for instance, a regular feature for expatriate wives is a coffee afternoon hosted by Marilyn Jamieson, wife of Trade Commissioner, Charles Jamieson. One of the main purposes of the function is to provide a focus for other Australian women living in Jeddah. Women living elsewhere in the Kingdom are also welcome if they happen to be visiting Jeddah. A new twist will soon be added to the coffee afternoon — a regular thrift show. In any expatriate community, the turnover rate is always high, with families completing their contracts and moving on to other countries or back home. Departing members of the community always have lots of small items to sell, newcomers are seeking to equip themselves with the necessary goods they need for their new home.

The thrift show promises to include old household favorites: potted plants, books, electrical items, clothes and particularly children's clothes. The idea of the thrift shop is to provide a central place where this type of item can be bought or sold. The Australian women plan to have their next coffee afternoon Dec. 6 and at that time will initiate their first thrift shop sale.

Another way to occupy the time of both expatriate women and children was envisioned by a new arrival to Jeddah, Val Saunders who recently spent two years in Jakarta with her husband. While there, she discovered that the ideal way to occupy her two pre-school age children and herself was to help with a children's play group run by expatriate Australian women in the Indonesian capital.

Now, at the start of her two-year contract in Jeddah, Val, still with one pre-schooler, has decided to repeat the exercise. Joining

forces with Pam Evans, another former Jakarta embassy colleague, and the mother of a toddler.

The two women recently began a play group which will take care of young children from two to four years old for other Australian women to enable them to have some free time.

"The playgroup run by the Australian Women's Association in Jakarta was invaluable for Australian mothers, and of course for the children," said Val. "It was set up by a girl who was a trained kindergarten teacher. I love children and really enjoyed my time there as an assistant, which is why I decided to do the same here."

Val described play as very important to young children. "It's part of the education process. It teaches creativity, how to relate to others, as well as providing youngsters with fun. Even when children are having a disagreement they are learning, developing their personalities. Adults shouldn't interfere unless it's absolutely necessary."

Val doesn't believe so much in trying to teach pre-schoolers, particularly the younger ones, formally. The emphasis is more on constructive, creative play. However, for the older kids the very rudiments of an "education" might be initiated — an introduction to the alphabet, colors, numbers.

"The bulk of our program will revolve around classic creative activities such as painting, modelling play dough, and fun activities such as singing, stories and dressing up. Outside we have two wading pools, one filled with water for water play, and the other with sand play. Other physical activities include tricycle riding."

Where possible Val makes her own materials, such as play dough and, while speaking to *Arab News*, she began casting a creative eye over the loads of packing crates and cartons that had just emptied after the move from Indonesia. "Those cardboard cartons could be taped together to make a long tunnel," she mused, "and the crates would make an ideal playhouse." Things that usually go into the rubbish bin are also being hoarded — egg trays, cartons, containers of all shapes and sizes. With paste and paints the most amazing creations can be achieved.

It was a small irony, perhaps. The kind of little "life accident" (as Sheehy defines the unexpected) one encounters on a book promotion tour that had scheduled the author to be whisked from a country club luncheon to a crosstown book store autographing session without much consideration for path nor passage.

When she got to the bookstore, she rejected criticism that *Pathfinders* was merely a chronicle of upper-middle class anguish brought on by too many self-indulgent choices or the idea that *Pathfinders* can be seen as a map for well-to-do middle-aged runaways.

Her research began with 60,000 questionnaires. She eventually reduced that number to 200, whose "life cycles" over a four-year period she detailed in the 500-page book (William Morrow & Co. Inc., \$15.95). Sheehy said she weeded out the "my-husband-doesn't-tickle-me-anymore" divorcees and the man who changes jobs every six months."

There are, she said, people in the book from humble experiences. One is a welfare mother of 20. She, too, has a choice of divergent paths.

Sheehy explained: "Should she suffer a

panic marriage, turn the baby over to her mother, or begin to abuse it?" In an interview upstairs at the Yale Co-op Bookstore, she explained the woman's eventual pathfinding. "She went to a mental health center and took the road back. She got a job that pays a baby sitter."

There is also Irene Novak, wife of Joe, a reformed alcoholic fireman in the Detroit area. She got a job with a Head Start program and started going to college, both moves that made her husband resentful and then envious. She was eventually offered a supervisory job, but turns it down on Joe's advice that those were the kinds of jobs "they give girls with the pieces of paper from the University of Chicago."

She had begun down the path, but stopped, wrote Sheehy, "because like most women she could not take credit for her own successes all that had led up to the (job) offer must have been accident or luck."

Irene Novak has restarted down the path, deciding at age 40 to finish college and get her bachelor's degree.

Joe Novak meanwhile at 40 turned down an offer to run for the presidency of his union, telling Sheehy that "I was afraid I'd win. I am probably right now afraid to take the chance."

The key to successful pathfinding, said Sheehy, is the willingness to take risks. There are other elements, eight in all: Timing; capacity for loving; strong support systems; accumulated wisdom; sense of purpose; a recognition of life's spiritual elements (not necessarily religion); and true grit.

Sheehy explained: "Should she suffer a

Stuffing enhances vegetables

JEDDAH — Gourd, squash and eggplant are three vegetables which are usually available at stores and souks, this vegetable can be eaten alone or prepared with meat stuffing to enhance its taste.

The following recipe is Taiwanese and uses ground beef as the meat stuffing, any favorite meat can be substituted.

1. Peel the skin off the vegetable (gourd, squash or egg plant) and scoop out the seeds from 1 kilo. Cut into 20 slices each one inch wide and 1 1/2 inch long similar to a hot dog bun.

2. Mix 1/2 pound of ground meat with 2 T soy sauce and ginger juice, 1 T salt, 2 T cornstarch, 1 T sesame oil, 1/2 black pepper.

Stir the meat mixture in one direction until it is sticky.

3. Cut 1/4 kilo of lean beef into 20 thin slices 1/2 inch wide and 1 1/2 inches long.

4. Place 1/2 T of beef mixture and one piece of beef into a slit cut into each piece of vegetable. Arrange the vegetables in a bowl. Add 1/2 C of soup stock and steam for 20 minutes.

5. Turn the bowl upside down to remove the vegetable face-down onto a platter.

6. Boil 2 C of soup stock and season it with 1/2 T salt and 1/4 T black pepper. Add 2 T cornstarch and stir until thickened. Add 1/2 T of chicken oil. Pour over the vegetables and serve hot.

7. Mix 1/2 pound of ground meat with 2 T

soy sauce and ginger juice, 1 T salt, 2 T corn-

starch, 1 T sesame oil, 1/2 black pepper.

8. Mix 1/2 pound of ground meat with 2 T

soy sauce and ginger juice, 1 T salt, 2 T corn-

starch, 1 T sesame oil, 1/2 black pepper.

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starch,

Nigeria may follow suit

Norway announces cut in crude prices

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP) — In moves that may foreshadow more widespread reductions in crude oil prices, Norway has announced it was cutting the price of certain crudes Jan. 1, and Nigeria reportedly was doing the same.

In a related development, industry sources in the United States said Algeria was seeking to lure new buyers with unofficial offers to cut its price by 25 cents a barrel. Oil companies apparently balked at the suggestion. The actions were seen as further evidence that oil-producing nations, hard hit by the slowdown in economic activity in the United States and elsewhere, are acceding to market pressures in hopes of boosting their export trade.

Willy Olsen, a spokesman for Statoil, the Norwegian state oil company, announced the price reduction but would not reveal the new price to take effect Friday. Sources in Norway and the United States, however, said Statoil would cut its price for crude by 20 cents a barrel, to \$36.70. That price does not include delivery from the North Sea field to port.

Nigeria, which is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, informed its customers that the prices of two of its lower-grade crudes would be cut Friday.

By World Development Movement

Accord on textile exports assailed

LONDON, Dec. 31 (AFP) — The new Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA) hammered out earlier this month in Geneva will damage Third World efforts to increase trade, the British-based World Development Movement (WDM) said Thursday.

The WDM, which claims to be Britain's main pressure group for Third World welfare, issued a press statement saying that the MFA represented "yet another tightening of the protectionist noose around the 'Third World'". The new MFA took account of European Economic Community (EEC) efforts to brake Third World textile exports to Western Europe.

U.S. oil price decontrol lauded

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP) — The U.S. government's decision to end price controls on oil has been a rousing success, spurring increased domestic production, lower consumption and declining imports, the head of the oil industry's chief lobbying group has said.

In a year-end report, Charles J. Dibona, president of the American Petroleum Institute, said lifting of price controls had brought the country "good news for a change, about energy." In his first week in office, President Ronald Reagan removed all controls on oil,

eight months ahead of a schedule set by President Jimmy Carter.

Dibona said U.S. production in the contiguous 48 states in November 1981 was about 600,000 barrels a day above the level that would have prevailed had price controls remained in place. Energy department figures show that for the first 10 months of the year, production is running 25,000 barrels a day below 1980. But the API said its figures were based on estimates of what production would have declined to if trends set in the 1970s continued.

SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Authority	Description	Tender Number	Tender Price (\$R)	Closing Date
Jizan Educational Zone for Boys Khurais Municipality	Construction of simplified structures for schools Four and seven millimeter asphalt layer for some streets	—	500	15-12-1981
"	Engineering the mayor's office	—	20	1-2-1982
"	Temporary fences for public utilities and graveyards	—	20	18-12-82

PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

SHIPS MOVEMENTS UP TO 0700 HOURS ON 4TH RABI AL AWAL 1402/30TH DECEMBER 1981

Berth	Name of Vessel	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arr.
1A	Ville Due Havre	Shobokshi	Contra/Trucks/Mobiles Trailers/Vehicles	28-12-81
2	Garnet Ace	A.E.T.	General	26-12-81
4	State of Andhra Pradesh	Alisada	Fruits	25-12-81
5	Frigo America	Star	Rice/Gen/Contrs	25-12-81
6	Volosco	Kanoo	Rice/General/Car	26-12-81
7	Hellenic Wave	Alpha	Bagged Barley	25-12-81
8	Hwa Gek	Alpha	Plant/H. Veh./C.Good	28-12-81
9	Wakatake Maru	Alireza	Contra/Gen/Ldg.Mtys	28-12-81
10	Ahmed Al Fateh	Kanoo	General	24-12-81
11	Hellen	El Hawi	Contra/Steel/Gen.	24-12-81
12	Char Hsing	El Hawi	Contra/Stl/Ply/Gen.	26-12-81
13	Golden Riyadh	Fayez	Durras	27-12-81
14	Solidarity	Om	General/Tea	28-12-81
15	Jeddah Cement 1	Alisabah	Bulk Cement	27-12-81
19	Singapore Island	Alatas	Bagged Cereals/Gen.	24-12-81
20	Resurgence Express	Bamaodah	Bagged Wheat	27-12-81
21	Char Lo	Abdullah	Steel/Gen/Contrs.	25-12-81
24	Tricolor	Barber	Contra/Gen/Ldg.Mtys	28-12-81
25/26	Grand Canaria	Star	Dura	25-12-81
27	Mistral Universal	Reefer Cargo	Reefer Cargo	20-12-81
28	Syros	M.T.A.	Frozen Chicken	27-12-81
29	Ceylon	El Hawi	Tiles	28-12-81
30	Charlotte Maersk	Kanoo	Containers	28-12-81
35	Cardigan Bay	Samsco	Containers	28-12-81
36	Princess Mary	Gulf	Steel Bars	28-12-81
38	Valeria	Aireza	Containers	26-12-81
39	Puerto Cadiz	O.C.E.	Oranges	23-12-81
40	Midas Seine	Bamaodah	Wheat-Barley	22-12-81
41	Father Panos	Star	Barley	25-12-81
42	Catherine Schieffino	S.F.T.C.	Mafis/RoRo /Trls.	26-12-81

2.RECENT ARRIVALS

Berth	Name of Ship	Agent	Cargo	Arr.
1	Gulf	Steel Bars	28-12-81	
2	El Hawi	Tiles	"	
4	Aireza	Plant/H.Veh./Good	"	
5	Solidarity	Contra/Gen/Ldg.Mtys/Gen	"	
6	Ahmed Al Fateh	General/Tea	"	
7	Ville Due Havre	Contra/Gen/Ldg.Mtys	"	
8	Garnet Ace	Contra/Track/Tr/Mobi	"	
9	Alisabah	Vehicles	"	
10	Pierre L.D.	Bulk Cement	"	
11	Adria	To Load Mtys	"	
12	Mazin	Dura	"	

JUBAIL PORT

SUB : SHIP MOVEMENTS-WED 4.3.1401/30.12.81

Berth	Name of Ship	Agent	Cargo	Arr.
3	Hoechst Cairn	Kanoo	Gen. Cargo	27-12-81
6	Hemnes Scan	GAC	Gen. Cargo/Contrs	28-12-81
7	Tanjah Holweda	Kanoo	Gen. Cargo	22-12-81
8	Steve Campbell	Barber	Bulk Cement	15-12-81

India to buy 16.8m tons of oil in '82

NEW DELHI, Dec. 31 (AP) — India has concluded agreements to buy up to 16.8 million tons of oil next year, but hopes to hold its imports to 14.5 million tons, a government spokesman said Thursday.

In addition, India expects to import 3.5 million to 4 million tons of petroleum products, a decrease from the roughly 5 million tons of refined products purchased this calendar year, said Petroleum Ministry Spokesman D. Kackwana.

The amount of oil the country imports during 1982 will depend on its local production, projected at 18 million tons of crude, about two million tons more than this year, Kackwana said. India is pegging its hopes for increased domestic production on its main Bombay High held in the Arabian Sea off the western port city of Bombay. That field produced about 8.5 million tons this year and is projected to pump 10 million to 11 million tons next year, Kackwana said. Plans call for boosting its output to 20 million to 22 million tons by 1984 as India continues to strive for self-sufficiency.

Kackwana lured away customers from Libya and Algeria, which produce a similar-quality oil. Libya cut its price by 50 cents a barrel to \$37 this month, and while Algeria has held its official price at \$37.50, analysts expect a cut of 50 cents a barrel or more early next year.

"There is no way that Libya and Algeria can continue to sell at those prices when Nigeria is charging \$36.50 a barrel for the same quality oil," said Constantine Filiakos, an energy analyst at Merrill Lynch and Co. in New York.

At OPEC's meeting in early December, Nigeria refused to raise its price. Several other OPEC members had agreed to cut the prices of some lower-grade crudes by between 20 cents and 70 cents a barrel, effective Jan. 1.

The WDM slated the British government Thursday for having demanded even tougher textile import restrictions than some of its EEC partners and other industrialized countries. "Britain's commitment to freer trade for the Third World as help of helping their development has therefore in practice been totally abandoned," it concluded.

Bangladesh devalues taka

DACCA, Dec. 31 (AP) — The Bangladeshi currency has been devalued another 2.43 percent.

With the latest measure, the taka has been devalued by nearly 19 percent since last February. The Bangladesh Bank Wednesday quoted the selling rate of a pound sterling at 38.058 taka against 37.1545 Tuesday, while the U.S. dollar was quoted at 20.1572 taka against 19.6793 Tuesday.

The devaluation is believed to be a result of the visit in early December of a team from the International Monetary Fund which suggested at least a five percent devaluation.

U.K. asks importers to name producer

LONDON, Dec. 31 (AFP) — From Friday the country of origin must be shown on a wide range of goods imported into Britain. They include textiles, footwear, television sets, many electric appliances and cutlery.

The move has raised objections from the commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), which sees it as a possible non-tariff barrier to international trade.

U.S. Stock Market

NEW YORK — Stock prices edged upward Thursday morning, making a last run at a year-end rally.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 1.71 to 874.81 in the first half hour. Gainers took a small lead over losers in the early rally of New York Stock Exchange-listed issues.

Some sporadic buying turned the market upward Wednesday in the absence of any striking news developments. Analysts said traders were doing some more nibbling Thursday in anticipation of the end of tax-selling pressures.

The oil glut is to blame. Crude oil reservoirs are at bursting point in the Western world. And in any case these customers are not rushing to order new oil when the producing countries are trimming their crude rates.

Output in 1981 averaged some 22,480,000 barrels a day against the 1980 figure of 26,870,000. No wonder tankers are less in demand.

Many tankers are being used for off-shore storage. Some 130 very large crude carriers (VLCC's) of over 160,000 ton are being used for this purpose. One-third of the Japanese tanker fleet is so employed.

With higher taxes

French life to cost more

PARIS, Dec. 31 (AP) — French residents, already reeling from an estimated 14 percent inflation rate for 1981, will start off 1982 with substantial price increases in gasoline, hospital costs and an assortment of consumer goods.

But the elderly and handicapped, as well as the lowest-paid workers, are favored in the government's 1982 budget with increased social benefits. The government has announced a hike in the tax on gasoline as of Jan. 6 of about 5 percent overall, with premium gasoline now selling for 4.12 francs a liter (about \$2.80).

A day's stay in a French hospital will be 13.4 percent more expensive as of the first of the year. The total increase for 1982 could be as much as 17 percent, in light of the Socialist government's pledge to fight unemployment by creating 9,500 jobs in hospitals and allied medical services.

In addition, the bit taken out of French wage-earners' pay checks to pay for the national social security medical insurance system will be increased by 1 percent, following a 1 percent increase this autumn.

For food price rise

2 Cuban policymakers fired

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP) — Cuba has dismissed two top economic policymakers following widespread public grumbling over increases in food prices, particularly in restaurants, informed sources have disclosed.

The price increases were imposed Dec. 14 and were temporarily rescinded last week after what the sources described as "vigorous protests" by trade union and student groups. "There was obvious discontent and it was heard and heard very loudly," said one informant.

Dismissed from their posts were the Minister of Internal Trade Serafin Fernandez Rodriguez, and the minister-president of the state committee on prices, Santiago Riera Hernandez. The informants, who asked not to be identified, said there were protests because the burden of the price hikes fell most heavily on restaurants patronized by low and middle-income Cubans. Revised price increases were to be announced in February.

In addition to restaurant prices, the Cuban government also increased the prices of some 1,500 other items. Many basic consumer goods were affected, including milk, rice, sugar, beans, cooking oil, meat, fish, coffee, fruit, vegetables, cigars and cigarettes. Of all the increases, however, the prices

affecting restaurants were believed to have had the most impact because eating out is a favorite Cuban pastime.

Going to restaurants, Cubans eat better and the food they eat is not charged against the monthly food allocation each Cuban receives under the rationing system. Only rarely since the start of the revolution has the Cuban government raised prices. It often has responded to inflationary pressures by reducing the supply.

The Dec. 14 announcement said the price increases

